



Fact Sheet:



Driving Under-the-Influence (DUI) Statistics

2005 CALIFORNIA STATE STATISTICS

- 4,329 people in California were killed in traffic crashes. 1,719 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol; this represents approximately 40% of all traffic fatalities in the State.
- There were 3,846 fatal crashes in California of these crashes 1,520 were alcohol related.
- There were a total of 180,288 DUI arrests.
- Males comprised 82.7 percent of all DUI arrests.

California Trends

- From 1990 to 2004, the reoffense rate has decreased 39% for second offenders and by 40% for first offenders.
- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities have dropped by 57.3% since 1988.

2005 NATIONAL STATISTICS

- 43,510 people were killed in traffic crashes. 17,590 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol. (40% of all traffic deaths.)
- Approximately 254,000 people suffered injuries in alcohol-related collisions.
- In 2005, more than half of the 414 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-related crashes were riding with the drinking driver.
- Nearly 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

Drivers

- The highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher was for drivers ages 21 to 24 (32%).
- Safety belts were used by only 28% of fatally injured drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher.
- Nearly three-quarters of drivers convicted of driving while impaired are either frequent heavy drinkers or alcoholics.
- For every 100,000 licensed drivers, young drinking drivers are involved in fatal crashes at twice the rate of drivers aged 21 and older.

Crashes

- The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than 3 times as high at night as during the day (60% vs. 18%).
- For all crashes, the alcohol involvement rate was 5% during the week and 12% during the weekend.
- 30% of all fatal crashes during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 51% on weekends.
- Crashes involving men are more likely to be alcohol-related than those involving women. Alcohol involvement is highest for men aged 21-34.
- At all levels of blood alcohol concentration, the risk of being involved in a crash is greater for young people than for older people. In 2005, 16% of drivers 16-20 who died in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking alcohol.

Youth

- The number of drunk drivers under the age of 21 who were involved in fatal crashes dropped by 62% from 1982.
- More than two-thirds of the youth motor vehicle occupant fatalities did not use a seat belt or motorcycle helmet.
- Most youth motor vehicle fatalities occurred in June and July.
- 77% of youth alcohol-related fatalities were males.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- The median BAC level of a convicted DUI offender, as reported by law enforcement on APS forms, was .150% in 2004.
- The illegal BAC limit for commercial drivers is .04 percent.
- In 2005, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have a .08 BAC per se law.
- Even at blood alcohol concentration levels as low as .02 percent, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08 percent BAC.
- 31% of all traffic fatalities occurred in crashes where the driver or non-occupant had a BAC of 0.10 or greater.
- 22% of all drivers and 14% of drivers under 21 involved in fatal crashes had a BAC result of .15 or higher.
- High BAC drivers (.15 or above) accounted for more than half of all the alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

Trends

- The number of alcohol-involved traffic fatalities increased 7.7% in 2005.
- Drug-involved fatalities show a significant growing trend in the past decade. However, the greatest proportion of fatalities remains alcohol related.
- The DUI arrest rate declined slightly in 2005, remaining relatively unchanged in the last four years, and represents 20% reduction from the arrest rate in 1995.
- The average age of an arrested DUI offender in 2005 was 30 years old. Less than 1% of arrested DUI offenders are juveniles (under age 18).

Administrative Drivers License Revocation

- In 1990, California implemented a mandatory driver's license suspension law for drunk drivers, also known as "admin per se."
- In 2005, 168,569 licenses were suspended as a result of "admin per se".